GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2235
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2015
Development of Agartala Airport
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports which have been renovated and developed as model airports in the country;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to renovate the Agartala airport and develop it as model airport and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to upgrade Agartala Airport as International Airport and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the infrastructure and equipment at this airport is sufficient to handle more flights; and

e) if so, whether there is a demand to start direct flight of Air India on Delhi-Agartala-Delhi route and if so, the time by which the said flight is likely to start?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a): The state-wise details of airports developed / renovated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are at Annexure-I. However, there is no such concept of model airports at present.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. In order to upgrade the Agartala Airport, AAI has engaged a consultant for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for taking up the Construction of an Integrated Terminal Building and widening of runway basic strip to meet the standard norms. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the project has been finalized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and soil investigation and topographical survey have also been completed. However, the Government has decided to promote the six metro airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad as international hubs to serve as the main access points for international travel to and from India, as this is essential for developing domestic civil aviation.

(d): The existing infrastructure of Agartala Airport is adequate to handle present level of operations.

(e): The current daily passenger traffic between Agartala and Delhi does not justify and is not viable for Air India to start direct flight in this route.